

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 590

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to recognize George T. Whitley on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, George T. Whitley is one such estimable person who has served as an outstanding newspaperman with *The Covington Leader* for nearly 57 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitley proudly served his country for two and one-half years in the United States Army, including a tour of duty in the South Pacific during World War II, and received an honorable discharge with the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, he began his career at *The Covington Leader* on July 9, 1946, as a Linotype Operator; in 1960, he was promoted to Advertising and Circulation Manager; in 1975, he was named Managing Editor by the late Carl A. Jones, who had purchased the paper in 1965 from the Simonton family, owners since 1888; and

WHEREAS, George Whitley is truly a Leader in journalism; he is the only person to have served as President of all three aspects of the Tennessee Press Association: the Tennessee Press Association, the Tennessee Press Service, and the Tennessee Press Association

Foundation, in addition to serving on the membership committee of the National Newspaper Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitley is an active and important part of his community, participating in numerous civic organizations, including the Covington Dixie Youth Baseball Association as Director and Assistant State Director; the Covington Jaycees as Past President, Regional Vice President, State Editor and National Director; the Covington Exchange Club as Past President, and as Past Director of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, George Whitley served the citizens of Covington with distinction, winning election three times to a seat on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and serving as the city's Vice Mayor for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitley is a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Covington, where he served as Sunday School Director for several years; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Gladys Hyde Whitley, and their two sons, Dr. Stan J. Whitley and Bret H. Whitley, and grandchildren Anna, Jordan, and Nathan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitley looks forward to retirement and plans to enjoy his grandchildren and do some traveling; and

WHEREAS, George Whitley exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, George T. Whitley has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the good people of Covington and Tipton County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to George T. Whitley our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, even as we pay tribute to his exemplary career with *The Covington Leader*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.